

Annual Report 2023



HEALTHY LEARNERS
A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System

*Painting A World
Full Of Possibilities*



HEALTHY LEARNERS

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Welcome

A Year Of Growth And Impact...

When I became the Executive Director of Healthy Learners in 2019, I envisioned a canvas filled with vibrant possibilities. My aspirations were not merely administrative goals but strokes of color, blending to create a masterpiece that would touch the lives of countless children in South Carolina. In my dreams, I saw each county and community waiting to be infused with the transformative essence of Healthy Learners. With the support of a community that believed in the potential of every child, we embarked on a journey to a brighter future.

Over the past 4 ½ years, our canvas has come to life. We have tripled our geographical footprint and added hope, resilience, and opportunity. The number of students served has nearly tripled. More staff and vehicles joined, allowing us to reach more children and provide them with the essential healthcare needed to thrive in both the classroom and life.

Reflecting on this artistic journey, I am grateful to everyone who picked up a brush and contributed to this masterpiece. If you are reading this, you are part of the vibrant hues that make this happen! With your help and trust in us, we are not just building opportunities; we are painting dreams that are becoming a reality for thousands of children in South Carolina.

I invite you to take a brush and join me in witnessing the continued expansion of our canvas. The painting of possibilities is far from complete, and I can't wait to explore new dimensions of growth and impact in the coming year. Thank you for being a vital part of this journey.

Who WE ARE...

Healthy Learners helps children struggling in their education because of unaddressed health barriers to their learning get the healthcare they need to learn and thrive, no matter the obstacle.

Amy Splittgerber
Executive Director



What WE DO...

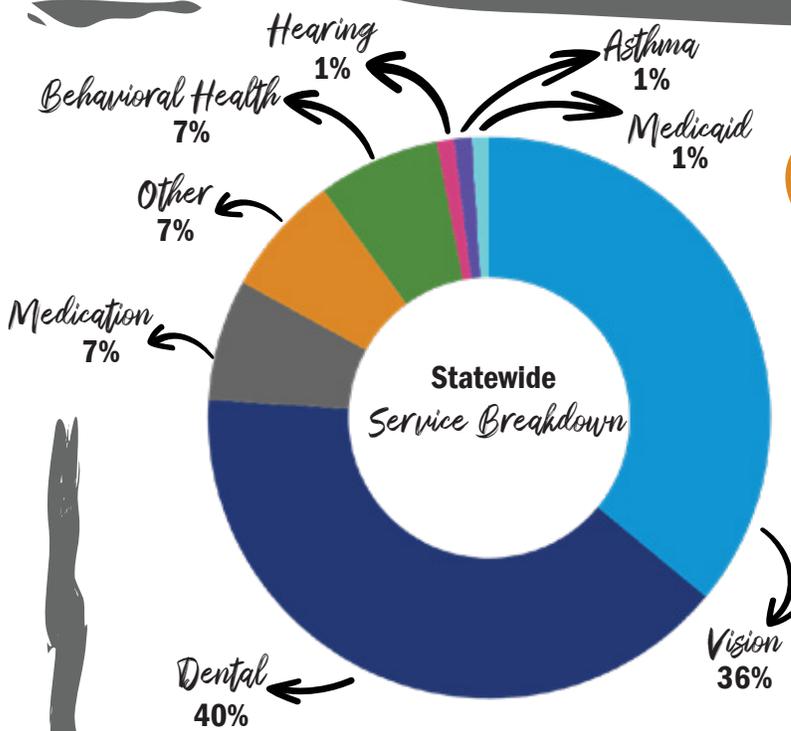
Healthy Learners partners with schools, medical providers, and community organizations to provide services for under-resourced children across South Carolina.

Why IT MATTERS...

Research has proven that education is the key for children from under-resourced communities to go further in life. Yet, for many, their educational success is at risk because of unaddressed healthcare challenges impeding their learning. Healthy Learners was created to address these challenges head-on and serve as the catalyst to ensure all children get the healthcare they need to thrive.



Our Impact



3,040 
Students Served

 **15,841**
Services Provided

21,334   
Healthcare Screenings

115,179 
Miles Traveled

“Children begin their scholastic career with unmeasurable hopes and dreams to what they can become. Those hopes and dreams dwindle every time they hit a roadblock, and that hope becomes exponentially more difficult to regain as they lose pace with their peers. Healthy Learners and its employees remove those barriers to learning, allowing children to prosper in their goals and not lose ground, bringing hope and successful adults to the future of South Carolina.” - Dillion Chewing



Dillon Chewing, Chair
HG Wealth Advisors

Our Biggest Fans...

“Your unwavering dedication to our school community has been exceptional. Even in my most challenging times, Healthy Learners offers invaluable support.” - Erin, School Nurse

“I’m thankful for Healthy Learners. They make it possible for my kids to get the necessities they need and I don’t have to miss work...They are absolutely awesome!” - Phyllis, Parent

“Great job getting patients here to their visits and overall great support for the students and meeting transportation needs for working parents. Staff is always pleasant and patient.” - Darryl, Provider

Midlands

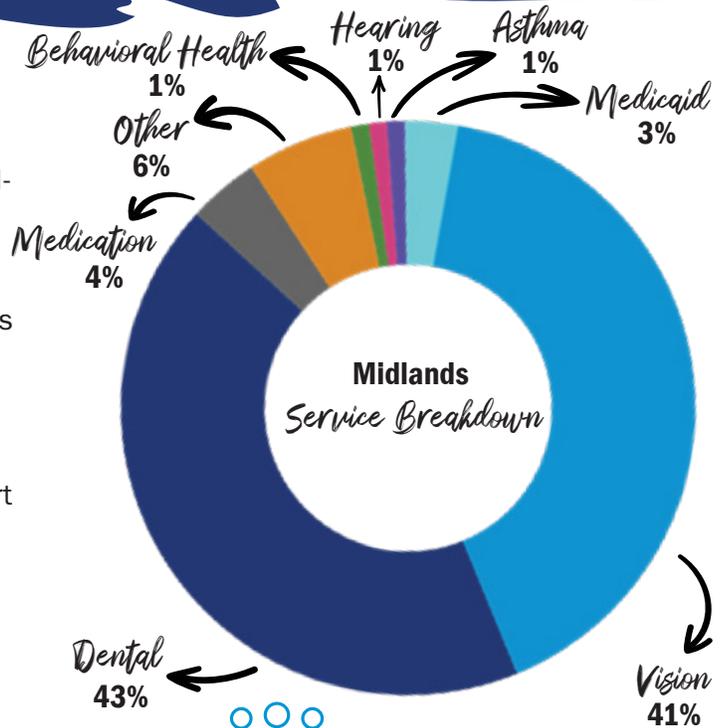
Richland | Lexington | Fairfield | Newberry

Finally Being Seen...

The Smith family, facing health issues, housing instability, and lack of phone communication, found unwavering support in Healthy Learners. Initially seeking help for dental and vision needs, they soon realized the interconnected challenges they faced. Healthy Learners stepped in, providing holistic aid beyond medical care.

Adam's dental problems required clearance from a doctor, and Healthy Learners facilitated transportation for necessary appointments, addressing potential heart concerns, and arranging follow-up care. Sara's recent diabetes diagnosis led to ongoing medical attention. Healthy Learners secured vital medication, supplies, and remote counseling, ensuring her care despite transportation limitations and hospital referrals for mental health concerns.

Beyond healthcare, Healthy Learners assisted the family during the holidays, coordinating with the school to provide essentials and transportation. Alyssa, the School Nurse said, "I have been working with this family for two years, and thanks to Healthy Learners, it feels like they are finally being seen. I am grateful for the positive impact it has had."



1,226 Students Served

4,612 Healthcare Screenings

28,549 Miles Traveled

5,294 Services Provided



"The Healthy Learners' representative is very professional and compassionate and excels at fighting for my child's care." - Angela, Parent



Upstate

Greenwood | Laurens

Diligence Celebrated...

Chanelle was frustrated. This was the third time her son Bruce's dental appointments were repeatedly canceled, jeopardizing her job due to frequent time-off requests. Something had to change to take care of Bruce, but the prospect of switching dentists and getting to appointments without losing her job was overwhelming. She confided in Bruce's teacher and trusted friend, Mrs. Guenette, who introduced them to Healthy Learners. The team quickly connected Bruce with a reliable dentist and provided oral health education to both he and Chanelle. Over a year later, Bruce was still taking excellent care of his teeth – until an impacted baby tooth causing pain and misalignment of his teeth, threatened to undo so much of his progress. He needed a tooth extraction and braces.

Healthy Learners facilitated the tooth extraction and guided Chanelle in submitting a multi-step Medicaid orthodontics referral. Medicaid approved Bruce's braces, and Healthy Learners continues to transport Bruce to his monthly orthodontics appointments. Bruce is taking excellent care of his teeth, and his braces as well, grateful to have a team by his side, cheering him on and celebrating his diligent care.

11,806   
Healthcare Screenings

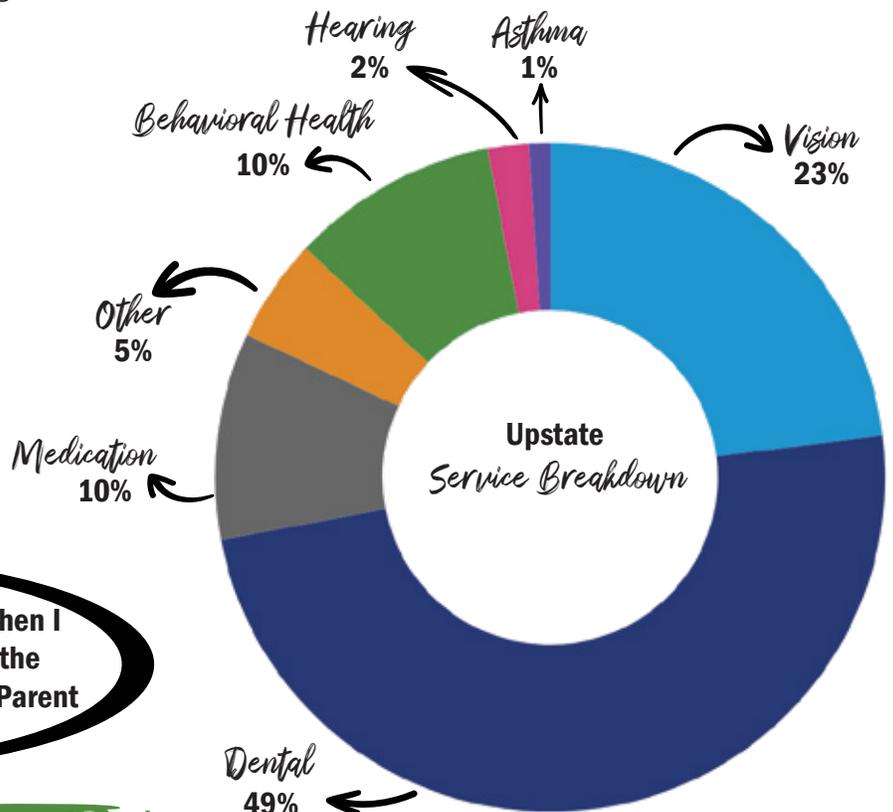
439 
Students Served

 3,378
Services Provided

18,182 
Miles Traveled



"They helped my daughter even when I didn't have transportation to get the assistance she needed." -Leslie, Parent



Pee Dee

Georgetown | Williamsburg | Dillon | Marion

Going The Distance...

Elise is a 5th grader at a Williamsburg County elementary school who has faced numerous challenges due to her single-parent, low-income household. She has been struggling with chronic swollen tonsils and recurrent ear infections, which have made it difficult for her to attend school regularly. Her mother's disability and the absence of a family car have only made things worse for her. It's not easy being a kid and facing so many health and financial struggles.

But thankfully, Elise and her family were not alone. After Elise's school nurse and guidance counselor came for a visit to find out why Elise was not attending school, they quickly realized she needed to see an ENT specialist as soon as possible. The only problem – The closest ENT was 45 miles away and Elise had no transportation of any kind. The school nurse called Healthy Learners.

Our team quickly got an appointment scheduled with a trusted ENT partner and picked up Elise for the 45 mile road trip to Georgetown County. With our partner's expertise, he identified that Elise needed a tonsillectomy to address her chronic tonsil swelling and found that her recurrent ear infections were being caused by fluid complications, which were being exacerbated by cold weather.

After many more Healthy Learners phone calls, appointments, road trips, and a surgery, Elise was healthy again and back at school. Elise's school nurse and guidance counselor have noticed a significant improvement in her attendance. She has been thriving both at home and in the classroom!



"As a single parent, the program allowed me to not have to take off of work and lose household income."

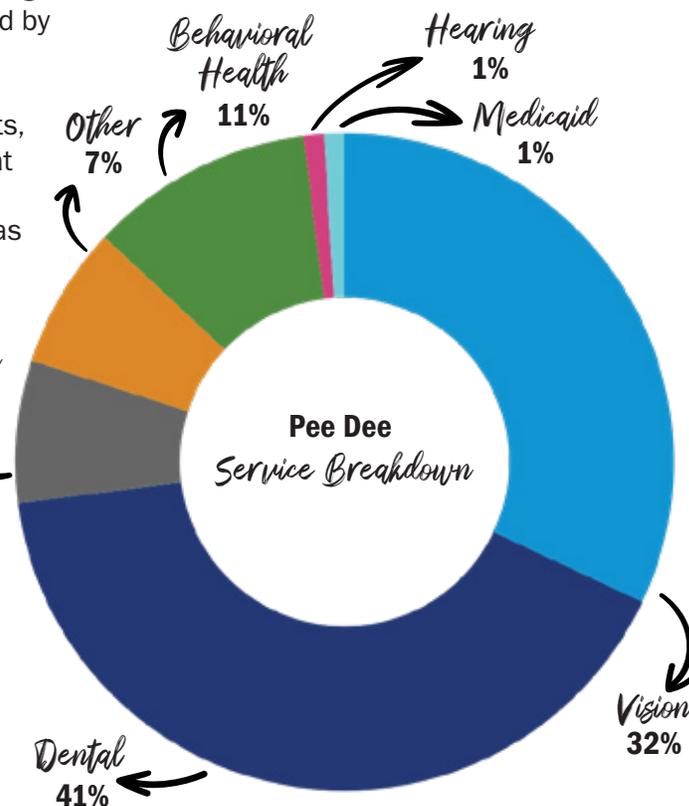
- Retta, Parent

2,125   
Healthcare Screenings

805 
Students Served

4,555 
Services Provided

37,205 
Miles Traveled



Lowcountry

Allendale | Hampton | Bamberg | Barnwell

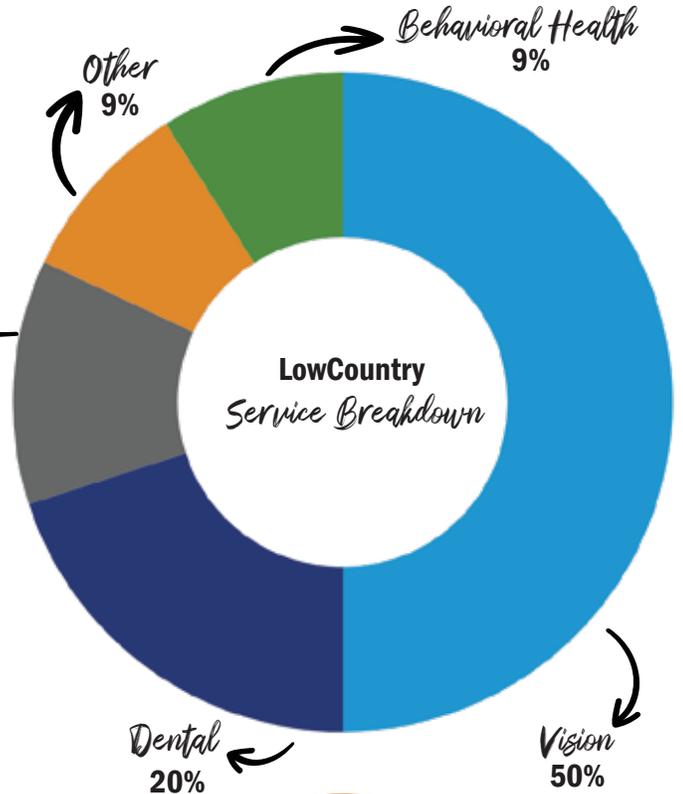
"Mrs. Shelley and Mrs. Walker are amazing with the scheduling and taking care of my baby." - Ann, Parent

2,791   
Healthcare Screenings

 2,614 
Services Provided Students Served

31,243 
Miles Traveled

Medication 12%



Forging New Friendships...

Emily and her family recently moved to Hampton County, leaving behind their previous hometown's vibrant playgrounds and charming ice cream shop. Transitioning from a larger school, Emily and her siblings faced challenges making new friends in this close knit town. Despite initial hurdles, they explored local community events and activities with a positive attitude, determined to build connections and feel a sense of belonging in Hampton County.

In the face of forging new friendships, Emily and her siblings have also encountered health barriers affecting their ability to learn effectively. Fortunately, Mason, a dedicated Healthy Learners AmeriCorps Member, became an essential support for Emily during her dental visits, transforming the experience into a positive one. The impact reached beyond the children, earning Mason the title of Emily's favorite friend. Amidst the ebb and flow of transitions and challenges, Healthy Learners remains steadfast in supporting our students, enabling them to embrace a life enriched with health, learning, and vibrant connections within their community.



Mental Health

Thank You For Making Strides...

Congratulations to Aixa Rodriguez-Mariani on her retirement and for her many years of dedicated service with Healthy Learners. She has indeed been an invaluable asset to Healthy Learners, and we are profoundly grateful for her remarkable contributions as the Mental Health Initiatives Manager throughout 2023.

Her unwavering dedication and passion for promoting mental health awareness has had significant impact on parents, teachers, and students in your community. Aixa's vision and leadership has enabled us to make meaningful strides in destigmatizing mental health challenges and fostering a culture of openness and support. Through her efforts, Healthy Learners was able to increase awareness through Youth Mental Health Training, "Connecting the Dots" film screenings and educational material for parents.

Healthy Learners is truly fortunate to have had such a dedicated advocate leading our mental health initiatives.



2023 Accomplishments...



16 Youth Mental Health First Aid Courses
in english and spanish across 10 counties



273 certified participants



4 screenings of "Connecting the Dots"



4,522 parents engaged with
mental health education efforts

Empowering Conversations...

Healthy Learners hosted four "Connecting the Dots" screenings, followed by a panel discussion on youth mental health. These events help reduce stigma, promote understanding, and foster support for the mental well-being of youth in the community. To find out how you can host an event in your community contact Healthy Learners at 803.454.0350

"As a parent, to hear the stories directly from the youth brought home the depth of the issues, and that there is hope."

- Kelly, Parent at "Connect The Dots" screening

Engage With Us

Healthy Learners organizes multiple events throughout the year to spread awareness, involve the community, and garner support for our students. Events range from a night of great music to a spelling challenge, and each event plays a vital role in supporting Healthy Learners' life-changing work. Imagine the satisfaction of being a part of an event that unite people and make a significant impact on our students lives.

An Unforgettable Evening...

Nashville Songwriters in the Round is a unique, intimate, and music-filled fundraiser supporting striving learners in poverty across our community.

The event features four Nashville singer-songwriters, all of whom have received high acclaim in the music industry for their songwriting mastery with chart-topping artists and individual industry success. Presented "in the round" with particular attention dedicated to the seating layout, each guest will have the opportunity to experience artists in an up-close and inspiring way.



MURRELLS INLET | SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
ATALAYA CASTLE AT HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE PARK



COLUMBIA | SEPTEMBER 20, 2024
CENTRAL ENERGY

What's All the Buzz...

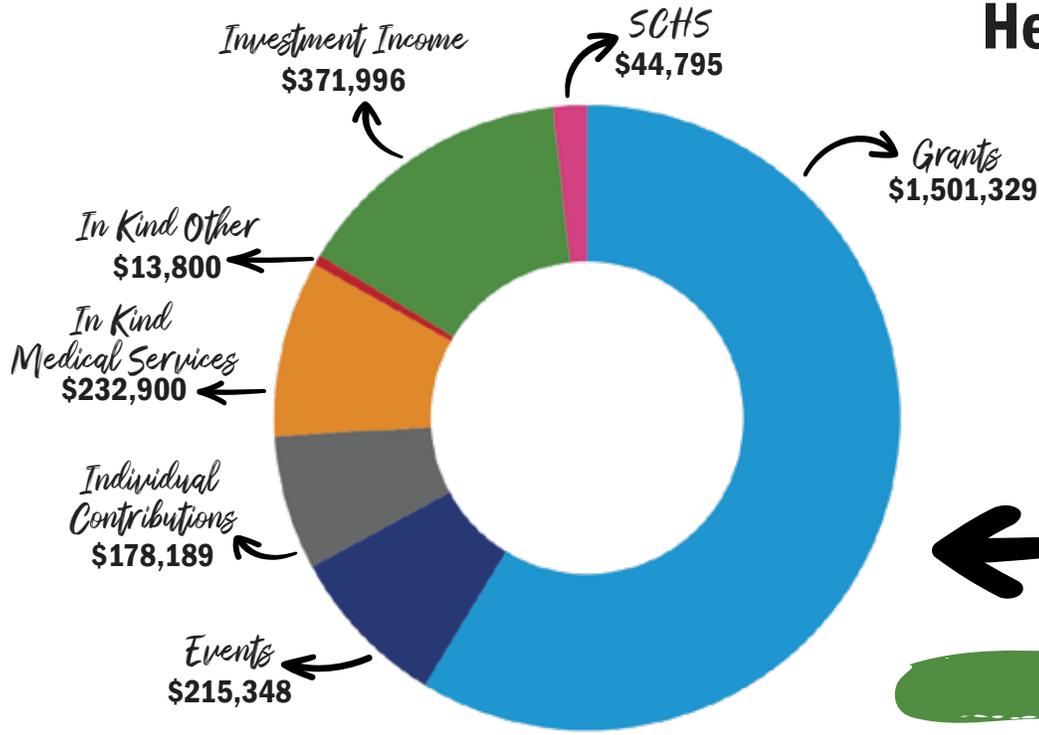
Get ready for the spelling spectacle – a linguistic showdown for a good cause! Teams of four, will battle it out for orthographic glory. Every correctly spelled word supports children in Greenwood with access to essential health care. Join us in celebrating the power of language and spelling for a purpose! Let the games begin!



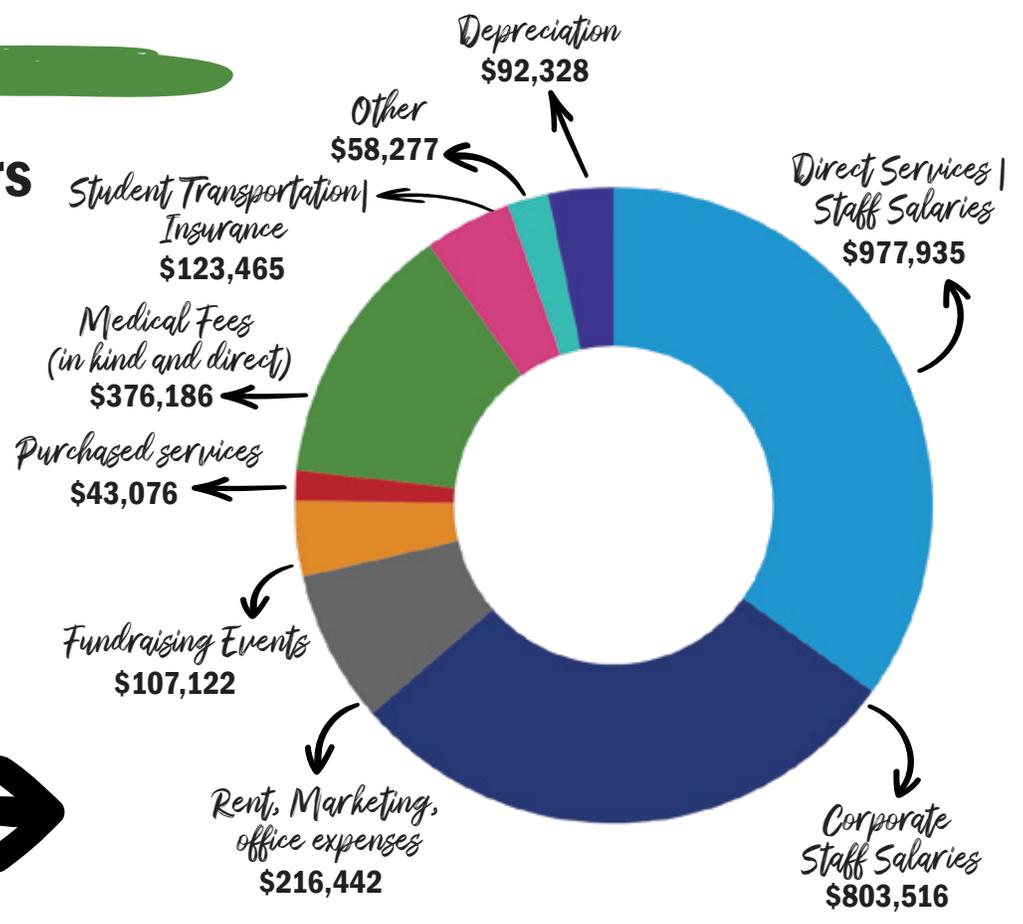
GREENWOOD | SEPTEMBER 24, 2024
EMERALD HIGH SCHOOL

2023 Financial's

Healthy Learners Income



Healthy Learners Expenses



The *mission* of HEALTHY LEARNERS is made possible by the support of our *generous* sponsors and donors:

\$100,000+



United Way Association of South Carolina



South Carolina FOUNDATION

James B. Drake
THE DUKE ENDOWMENT



SISTERS of CHARITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA



\$20,000 - \$99,999



FRANCES P. BUNNELLE foundation

Dorothy D. Smith CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



REBECCA C PARSONS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

THE DARNELL COMMITTEE

\$5,000 - \$19,999



South Carolina



ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK



NELSON MULLINS



United Way of the Lakelands



RICHLAND COUNTY | BILL & ALICIA CHOATE | MATTHEW ROBERTS

BILL & CONNIE TIMMONS | HENRY & CHARLOTTE MOORE | BEAUFORT FUND | LIPSCOMB FAMILY FOUNDATION

JIM AND SHERBY MCGRATH | VICTOR DIAZ-GONZALEZ, M.D. | TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



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Learn more

www.healthylearners.com



Volunteer With Us

At Healthy Learners, we are dedicated to promoting healthy smiles and happy hearts for every child, ensuring that they receive the care they deserve. Imagine being part of a team that not only transforms lives but also has fun doing it!

With Our Kiddos...

Student Health Screening Support | 2-6 Hours | Max Group Size: 5 Volunteers

Healthy Learners staff screen up to 1,000 students in 2-6 hours for vision, hearing, and dental health challenges at high-need schools. Volunteers help with student flow and data entry while connecting with children.

Ride Along Buddy | 1-3 Hours | Max Group Size: 1 Volunteer per vehicle

Join a Healthy Learners staff member for a student's health care appointment. Calm anxieties and make a friend, as many students are first-timers to provider appointments.

For Our Kiddos...

Car Wash Party | 1-2 Hours | Max Group Size: 10+ Volunteers | Location Flexible:

Help our children and staff by washing and detailing Healthy Learners fleet of vehicles.

Item Drive:

Make our children feel loved by donating care packages filled with coloring books, fidget toys, dental kits, snacks, and encouraging notes.

Mental Health Training | YMHFA Certification | Intro to Mental Health Lunch & Learn

Learn to identify and respond to youth mental health and substance use challenges. Designed for adults interacting with young people.

To schedule your next volunteer opportunity, contact
Christian Markle, Director of Development | cmarkle@healthylearners.com | 803-530-0002

